

CLAIMS

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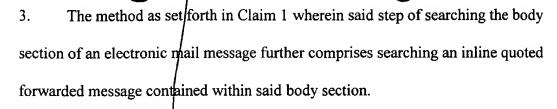
A method for managing sender address information in a chain forwarded 1. electronic mail message in an electronic messaging system, said sender address information having a plurality of previous sender addresses, said electronic mail message having a header section and a body section, said header section containing fields indicating the sender address of a most recent sender of an electronic mail message, said body section containing a forwarded message and fields indicating chain sender addresses of senders prior to said most recent sender of an electronic mail message, said electronic messaging system having a user display and a user interface for receiving commands and input from a user, said method comprising the steps of:

searching said body section of said electronic mail message for said chain sender addresses of senders prior to said most recent sender; and

providing a first user control on said electronic messaging system user interface for displaying one or more of said chain sender addresses; and

displaying one or more chain sender addresses on said user display responsive to operation of said first user control by a user such that a user may view one or more chain sender addresses.

The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of searching the body 2. section of an electronic mail message further comprises searching a Simple Mail Transfer Protocol message.



- The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of searching the body
 section of an electronic mail message further comprises searching an attached forwarded electronic mail message.
 - 5. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of searching the body section of an electronic mail message further comprises searching the header section of an electronic mail message for a Sender-chain field containing addresses corresponding to chain senders.
 - 6. The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising the step of providing a second user control for selecting one or more of said displayed chain sender addresses.
 - 7. The method as set forth in Claim 6 further comprising the steps of:

 providing a third user control for adding said selected chain sender addresses to an electronic mail address book; and automatically adding said selected chain sender addresses to an

electronic mail address book responsive to operation of said third user control.

8. The method as set forth in Claim 6 further comprising the steps of:

providing a third user control for adding said selected chain sender
addresses to an electronic mail address book as a new group of entries; and

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automatically adding said group of selected chain sender addresses to an electronic mail address book responsive to operation of said third user control.

- 9. The method as set forth in Claim 6 further comprising the steps of:

 providing a third user control for automatically addressing a new
- electronic mail message to said selected chain sender addresses; and
 automatically addressing a new electronic mail message to said
 selected chain sender addresses responsive to operation of said third user control.
 - 10. A method for managing sender address information in a chain forwarded electronic mail message in an electronic messaging system, said sender address information having a plurality of previous sender addresses, said electronic mail message having a header section and a body section, said header section containing fields indicating the sender address of a most recent sender of an electronic mail message, said body section containing a forwarded message and fields indicating chain sender addresses of senders prior to said most recent sender of an electronic mail message, said electronic messaging system having a user display and a user interface for receiving commands and input from a user, said method comprising the steps of:

searching said body section of said electronic mail message for said chain sender addresses of senders prior to said most recent sender; and

adding a chain sender field to an electronic mail message header section when forwarding the chain forwarded electronic mail message to another recipient, said

chain sender field containing any chain sender addresses found during the step of searching the body section and the address of the most recent sender.

- 11. The method as set forth in Claim 10 wherein said step of searching the body section further comprises searching a Simple Mail Transfer Protocol message.
- The method as set forth in Claim 10 wherein said step of adding a chain sender field further comprises adding a Sender-chain field to a Simple Mail Transfer Protocol message.
 - 13. A computer-readable media containing computer program code for managing sender address information in a chain forwarded electronic mail message in an electronic messaging system, said sender address information having a plurality of previous sender addresses, said electronic mail message having a header section and a body section, said header section containing fields indicating the sender address of a most recent sender of an electronic mail message, said body section containing a forwarded message and fields indicating chain sender addresses of senders prior to said most recent sender of an electronic mail message, said electronic messaging system having a user display and a user interface for receiving commands and input from a user, and said electronic message system having a processor for executing computer program code such that when said computer program code executed by said processor, said electronic message system performs the steps of:

searching said body section of said electronic mail message for said chain sender addresses of senders prior to said most recent sender; and

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chain sender addresses.

displaying one or more of said chain sender addresses; and
displaying one or more chain sender addresses on said user display responsive
to operation of said first user control by a user such that a user may view one or more

- 14. The computer-readable media as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said computer program code for performing the step of searching the body section of an electronic mail message further comprises computer program code for searching a Simple Mail Transfer Protocol message.
- 15. The computer-readable media as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said computer program code for performing the step of searching the body section of an electronic mail message further comprises computer program code for searching an inline quoted forwarded message contained within said body section.
- 16. The computer-readable media as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said computer program code for performing the step of searching the body section of an electronic mail message further comprises computer program code for searching an attached forwarded electronic mail message.
 - 17. The computer-readable media as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said program code for performing the step of searching the body section of an electronic mail message further comprises computer program code for searching the header section of an electronic mail message for a Sender-Chain field containing addresses corresponding to chain senders.

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- 18. The computer-readable media as set forth in Claim 13 further comprising computer program code for performing a step of providing a second user control for selecting one or more of said displayed chain sender addresses.
- 19. The computer-readable media as set forth in Claim 18 further comprising5 computer program code for performing a steps of:

providing a third user control for adding said selected chain sender addresses to an electronic mail address book; and

automatically adding said selected chain sender addresses to an electronic mail address book responsive to operation of said third user control.

20. The computer-readable media as set forth in Claim 18 further comprising computer program code for performing the steps of:

providing a third user control for adding said selected chain sender addresses to an electronic mail address book as a new group of entries; and

automatically adding said group of selected chain sender addresses to an electronic mail address book responsive to operation of said third user control.

21. The computer-readable media as set forth in Claim 18 further comprising computer program code for performing the steps of:

providing a third user control for automatically addressing a new electronic mail message to said selected chain sender addresses; and

automatically addressing a new electronic mail message to said selected chain sender addresses responsive to operation of said third user control.

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22. A computer-readable media containing computer program code for managing sender address information in a chain forwarded electronic mail message in an electronic messaging system, said sender address information having a plurality of previous sender addresses, said electronic mail message having a header section and a body section, said header section containing fields indicating the sender address of a most recent sender of an electronic mail message, said body section containing a forwarded message and fields indicating chain sender addresses of senders prior to said most recent sender of an electronic mail message, said electronic messaging system having a user display and a user interface for receiving commands and input from a user, and said electronic message system having a processor for executing computer program code such that when said computer program code executed by said processor, said electronic message system performs the steps of:

searching said body section of said electronic mail message for said chain sender addresses of senders prior to said most recent sender; and

adding a chain sender field to an electronic mail message header section when forwarding the chair forwarded electronic mail message to another recipient, said chain sender field containing any chain sender addresses found during the step of searching the body section and the address of the most recent sender.

23. The computer-readable media as set forth in Claim 22 wherein said computer program code for performing the step of searching the body section comprises computer program code for searching a Simple Mail Transfer Protocol message.

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- 24. The computer-readable media as set forth in Claim 22 wherein said computer program code for performing the step of adding a chain sender field further comprises computer program code for adding a Sender-Chain field to a Simple Mail Transfer Protocol message.
- 25. A chain sender address managing apparatus for managing sender address information of a chain forwarded electronic mail message in an electronic mail messaging system, said sender address information having a plurality of previous sender addresses, said electronic mail message having a header section and a body section, said header section containing fields indicating the sender address of a most recent sender of an electronic mail message, said body section containing a forwarded message and fields indicating chain sender addresses of senders prior to said most recent sender of an electronic mail message, said electronic messaging system having a user display and a user interface for receiving commands and input from a user, said apparatus comprising:

a message searcher for searching said body section of a chain forwarded electronic mail message for chain sender addresses; and

a first user control for displaying one or more chain sender addresses on said user display such that a user may view sender addresses of chain senders of a chain forwarded message.

20 26. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 25 further comprising a second user control for selecting one or more of said displayed chain sender addresses.

- 27. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 26 further comprising a third user control for adding said selected chain sender addresses to a electronic mail address book.
- 28. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 26 further comprising a third user control for adding said selected chain sender addresses to a electronic mail address book as a group of addresses.
- 29. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 26 further comprising a third user control for automatically addressing a new electronic mail message to said selected chain sender addresses.
- 30. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 25 further wherein said searcher comprises a Simple Mail Transfer Protocol message searcher.
 - 31. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 26 further comprising a Chain-Sender field creator which creates a Chain-Sender field in a header section of a new message upon forwarding of a chain forwarded message to another recipient.